

Region 1

Hot Topics

Poor Air Quality Continues in Connecticut

On July 19, six ozone monitors in Connecticut recorded a maximum 8-hour average in excess of the 2015 NAAQS of 70 ppb. Five of the six monitors also exceeded 2008 NAAQS of 75 ppb. On July 20, the ozone monitor in Madison, Connecticut also recorded a maximum 8-hour average measured concentration of 75 ppb, in excess of the 2015 NAAQS of 70 ppb. These exceedances bring the number of ozone exceedance days in New England to six so far this year.

R1 Receives Access Warrant to the Railroad Salvage/Griswold Cotton Mill Removal Site

On July 15, a U.S. Magistrate Judge signed an *ex parte* administrative warrant granting EPA access to the Railroad Salvage/Griswold Cotton Mill Site in Montague, Massachusetts. This warrant provides EPA with access to perform a preliminary assessment and site investigation under the Superfund removal program. EPA has been working closely with the State and the Town of Montague on this planned site investigation.

R1 Proposes NPDES Permits with PFAS Monitoring Requirements

Between July 16, and July 20, R1 proposed five NPDES permits for public comment that contain monitoring requirements for PFAS compounds. The Region worked with Office of Water in developing these permit terms. These are the first NPDES permits proposed by R1 with any PFAS conditions.

R1 Continues Progress in New England Opportunity Zones Under Brownfields Program

On July 15, R1 participated in a virtual public meeting to discuss the cleanup method options for Waterfall Arts cleanup grant in Belfast, Maine. On July 21, R1 tasked its START contractor to conduct a Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) at the Gardner Memorial Park in Newport, VT, which will include Phase II assessment work and cleanup planning for a recreation park facility. Also on July 21, the Town of East Millinocket, Maine completed the purchase of the Great Northern Paper Mill. R1 will be performing the Phase 2 assessment of the mill under our TBA Program. All three of the sites are located in Opportunity Zones and historic mill restoration is a priority action area for R1.

R1 Approves PCB Cleanup and Disposal at Somerbridge Hotel in Massachusetts

On July 20, R1 provided a PCB Cleanup and Disposal Approval for work performed by Somerbridge Hotel, LLC to address PCB contamination at two sites in Somerville and Cambridge as part of a new hotel development. The site has an extensive history of commercial use, and the most likely source of the PCBs was determined to be the former Roche Bros Drum and Barrel Cleaning Company operations from 1941 to 1966. An Activity and Use Limitation (AUL) was recorded for the Site after PCBs were discovered in 1995 and the developer has requested cleanup and disposal of the PCBs at the Site in accordance with the self-implementing disposal option for *PCB remediation waste* under 40 CFR § 761.61(a) to achieve an unrestricted use of the Site. Work primarily includes removing and disposing PCB contaminated soil to meet the less than or equal 1 ppm PCB requirement.

R1 Approves Construction of Solar Array at W.R. Grace Superfund Site in Massachusetts

On July 20, R1 issued a Comfort/Status Letter to a developer that will be constructing a solar array on Acton Water District property at the W.R. Grace Superfund Site. The development overlies groundwater which is impacted by W.R. Grace related contamination. The only ongoing Superfund related activity in this area of the Site is monitored natural attenuation, and EPA and W.R. Grace worked with the developer

to ensure that the monitoring wells will be protected and remain accessible for maintenance and sampling.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

R1 to Finalize Rhode Island RACT Certification Rulemaking Notice

This week, the final rulemaking notice to approve Rhode Island's SIP revision to certify RACT for the 2008 and 2015 ozone standards and approve associated regulations began routing for RA signature. Rhode Island will be the second state in the nation to complete the 2015 ozone RACT requirements.

Region 2

Hot Topics

Puerto Rico Recovery

On July 24, RA Pete Lopez is joining Rear Admiral Brown, White House Special Representative for PR Disaster Recovery, at several meetings in Puerto Rico to further evaluate recovery efforts. He will participate with other officials on a panel discussion about energy issues. **ALSO:** R2 worked with eight local partners through the Healthy Buildings Long-term Disaster Recovery Collaborative to provide technical assistance as they finalized their CDBG-DR funding applications. To date, a total of eight workforce training applications were submitted to the PR Dept. Of Housing. These training grants, if awarded, would address numerous trade sectors, including, mold-lead-asbestos remediation/abatement, energy raters, construction trades, teachers, building inspections, cost estimation, etc.

EPA Success in Eastern Long Island Sound Dredged Material Disposal Site (ELDS) Litigation

In December 2016, EPA designated the ELDS in CT state waters to serve CT and NY dredged material disposal needs. The decision was opposed by NY constituencies. The State of NY, Suffolk County and the Town of Southold sued EPA to block designation of the ELDS; CT intervened on EPA's behalf. On July 17, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of NY denied NYS' motions for summary judgement and ruled in favor of EPA's motion for summary judgment concluding that "in designating the ELDS, EPA based its findings on substantial evidence and followed the Agency's obligations under the law." NYS has 45 days to appeal the decision.

Interagency Meeting Regarding Teterboro Airport Expansion, Pending CWA 404(q) Action

On July 17, R2 wetlands program staff met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Port Authority of NY/NJ and project applicant Signature Flight Support, regarding the proposed Teterboro Airport expansion. In 2017 EPA issued a CWA 404(q) letter, and a subsequent letter in October 2019, objecting to the project due to inadequate characterization of cumulative impacts and an inadequate mitigation plan. In the July 17, meeting the applicant introduced a conceptual mitigation plan that focuses on wetland restoration in Jersey City, NJ in order to compensate for a portion of proposed unavoidable freshwater wetland impacts. EPA, USACE and FWS raised significant issues with the proposed site and its appropriateness, including lack of existing hydrologic data, contamination, the inability of the applicant to control hydrology without tide gate ownership, on-site utility easements, and incompatible adjacent land uses. The FAA nevertheless plans to include the site as proposed mitigation in its draft EA for the amended airport layout scheduled to be shared with agencies by August 15.

Tonawanda Coke Corp. (TCC) Site

On July 15, RA Pete Lopez and staff met with NYSDEC Commissioner Seggos and staff to discuss the potential virtual public meeting regarding this site with the Clean Air Coalition of Western New York (CACWNY). On July 16, the RA sent a letter to CACWNY accepting their invitation to attend such a meeting to provide an after-action report to the community. CACWNY is requesting that it be held by July 31. **ALSO:** On July 16, EPA participated in the Erie County Legislature Government Affairs Committee meeting regarding TCC. The new owner of the site, and CACWNY, participated at this meeting as well.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Superfund Site Meetings:

- July 28** The Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group will meet.
- July 30** There will be a virtual public meeting to discuss the proposed plan for the Pesticide Warehouse I Site in PR.
- August 5** A virtual public meeting is scheduled regarding the proposed plan for the Riverside Industrial Park Site in Newark, NJ.

Region 3

Hot Topics

R3 issues Notice of Refusal of Admission for importation of an unregistered pesticide by UPS (PA)

On July 14, R3 issued a Notice of Refusal of Admissions to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to refuse admission of an unregistered pesticide imported by UPS Customs Brokerage through the UPS Philadelphia Airport Hub. The disinfectant, called “Salopur Med,” had a German language-only label, and the product website stated- in German- that it could be used to disinfect against the novel coronavirus. A pesticide is any substance intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest, including bacteria, and all pesticides must be registered with the EPA. Sale and distribution of an unregistered pesticide is a violation of FIFRA.

WV Brownfield Virtual Grant Writing Workshop

On Tuesday, July 14, over 50 future Brownfield grant applicants from all over West Virginia converged virtually via a webinar for the first of a two part webinar series to prepare for an EPA Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup, or Multipurpose grant application. At this webinar, presenters from the West Virginia Brownfield Assistance Centers, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), and the U.S Environmental Protection Agency R3 Brownfields and Revitalization Branch provided an overview of the grant process. Information included threshold criteria and the first sections of ranking criteria, as well as helpful tips on how to make sure applicants have the basic information ready before the FY21 grant guidelines are released in August. Representatives from Marshall University, West Virginia University, EPA, and WVDEP discussed how their offices provide grantee support in the Brownfield program, site development strategies, and long-term vision to ensure successful site reuse and sustainable redevelopment. The second part of this two part training will be on August 4. In the recently announced FY20 competition, **West Virginia communities received more than \$3.2 million in funding from EPA.**

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Publishes Final Rulemaking for the Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards

On July 11, Pennsylvania published the final rulemaking for the triennial review of the Commonwealth’s water quality standards regulations in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. EPA expects to receive a submission package in late summer to early fall. PADEP last held a public hearing for a triennial review of the Commonwealth’s water quality standards regulation on January 30, 2018. PADEP has adopted revisions to its ammonia criteria for the protection of aquatic life; bacteria criteria for the protection of recreational waters; and new/updated criteria for the protection of human health. All proposed revisions are based on EPA recommendations.

EPA Initiates Consultation with the Seneca Nation of Indians on Pennsylvania’s Final Rulemaking for the Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards

On July 15, the Seneca Nation of Indians (SNI) accepted EPA’s July 1, offer of consultation on Pennsylvania’s triennial review of water quality standards regulations. On July 11, Pennsylvania published the final rulemaking for the triennial review of the Commonwealth’s water quality standards regulations in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. EPA has shared this publication with the SNI. EPA and SNI are planning an initial consultation meeting to discuss Pennsylvania’s revisions to its water quality standards regulations. EPA expects to receive a submission package in late summer to early fall and

plans to complete consultation with SNI before taking 303(c) action on the Commonwealth's triennial review.

Training Held for State Revolving Fund (SRF) State and Regional Employees

R3 Infrastructure and Assistance Section hosted a no-cost virtual training for 85 people on July 13 – July 17, (9AM-12PM). The majority were State staff new to the SRF program or interested in a refresher. There were also a few EPA employees new to the SRF program from Regions 1, 3, 6, and HQ. The training is typically offered in the R3 office every 2-3 years. Given the significant number of new State staff, it was decided to conduct the training a year early. Though the virtual format is not quite as interactive as the in-person training, it provided an excellent opportunity for significantly more state staff to attend because there was no travel cost incurred. Topics covered included: Overview of SRF programs, the grant award process, the annual review process, project eligibilities, marketing and outreach initiatives, innovative financing methods for nonpoint source projects, federal requirements (with special attention on Davis Bacon, American Iron & Steel, and the environmental review process), Fund management, financial oversight of borrowers, project management, measuring and communicating results, and Drinking Water SRF set-aside eligibilities.

Proposed Approval of a Portion of a Virginia State Implementation Plan Revision Regarding Ozone

On July 16, (85 FR 42187), EPA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) proposing approval of a portion of a state implementation plan (SIP) revision submitted by Virginia. This revision pertains to the Control Technique Guidelines (CTGs) and Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) requirements for the 2008 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). EPA is proposing to approve "negative declarations" submitted by Virginia, which certify for several CTG source categories (including the 2016 Oil and Natural Gas CTG) that there are no affected sources within the Commonwealth. In response to a lawsuit, EPA Headquarters is negotiating a consent order which will set the date by which EPA must finalize action on SIP revisions related to the 2016 Oil and Natural Gas CTG that have been submitted to EPA.

R3 Provides PFAS Update for MDE Managers

On July 16, SEMD supported by ARD, ECAD, WD and LCRD provided an update on various topics related to PFAS to MDE. The MDE participants were led by Deputy Secretary Denise Keehner accompanied by MDE's Water, Land and Air Administration Directors. MDE is preparing to initiate a widespread sampling effort to understand PFAS occurrence in MD. Follow-up information and PFAS resources will be sent to the State. R3 will be asked to participate in planning the state-wide sampling program.

EPA Provides Virtual First Responder Training to PA Responders

Due to the travel restrictions of COVID-19, the Preparedness and Response Branch was asked to provide virtual First Responder Training to Somerset County PA HazMat Team members. Somerset County Emergency Services is a long-time training client of EPA and a 32-hour EPA HazMat Technician class had been scheduled and cancelled for this past May. The OSC has been working with the team to develop and present evening courses on specific subject areas. On July 16, the OSC instructed a class on the Fire Department's direct reading instruments for carbon monoxide as related to carbon monoxide detectors used in homes. The group discussed the operating principle of the team's specific meters and reviewed tactics for response to CO alarms. This is one in a series of mini classes being developed for First Responders.

Outreach Conducted for Norwood Landfill Site, Norwood, PA

During the week of July 13, EPA began reaching out to homeowners that have been selected for residential soil sampling in relation to the Norwood Landfill Site. While there are no set dates for the sampling activity, EPA hopes to have access agreements with each property owner in place to help streamline the process. The Community Involvement Coordinators (CICs) contacted property owners that previously volunteered to be sampled following the November 21, 2019 public meeting and provided access agreements to property owners. The CICs also contacted approximately 35 property owners that had previously volunteered to be sampled but were not selected for sampling. Additionally, EPA will mail a postcard on July 17, to 100 homes in the Winona Homes neighborhood of Norwood. The postcard provides a link to an [EPA video](#) on the sampling and access agreements and seeks participation in the sampling activity. Thus far, EPA has received about 20 signed access agreements and interactions with community members have been mostly positive. The Site Assessment Branch hopes to begin sampling (both non-residential and residential areas) in Norwood this summer. More information on the sampling plans can be found on the [Norwood website](#).

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Aug 6-7 & 12-13****Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) webinar**

Webinar for PADEP staff to provide guidance for conducting MS4 inspections, including sharing case studies of past program implementation and inspection planning tips.

Region 4**Hot Topics****COVID-19 activities**

R4 Atlanta offices and Athens lab continue to operate in Phase 1. One R4 Atlanta employee alerted management as to their positive COVID case. R4 did not have to close any building spaces, and employees who had direct contact with the individual were notified. The Gulf of Mexico Division continues to operate under the COOP.

Oak Ridge Reservation (DOE)

On July 23, the Emerging Issues Team (EIT) on the Oak Ridge site met to continue working on issues related to the proposed landfill. The EIT will continue to work to reduce disputes and work with the site team on the ROD development.

Fairfax Wood Treathers, Jacksonville, FL

On July 16, the Notice of Intent to Delete public comment period ended. One comment was received, but it is not applicable to the final rule making. The NOD is routing for the Regional Administrator's signature. Plans for a celebratory ceremony with the Administrator are underway for the end of August.

FL 404 Assumption

FDEP indicated this week that the state's 404 assumption request package will be submitted before end of July, with the Biological Assessment submitted a few days prior. FDEP provided an updated SHPO Operating Agreement on July 21, which reflects input from the Seminole Tribes. FDEP shared the current version of the FDEP-Corps MOA on July 21, which they indicate is the final version intended for signature.

Reichhold Environmental Trust

In early July, R4 and Mississippi DEQ completed negotiations with a prospective buyer of 16 acres of property located adjacent to the Reichhold RCRA facility and owned by the Reichhold Trust. The land is unimpacted by site contamination and sold for approximately \$900,000 to a paving company. The funds have been deposited in the Trust's technical account and will pay for an upcoming Dual Phase Extraction project, and operation & maintenance activities for at least five more years at the Reichhold facility. The Trust originally took ownership of this property and two other parcels of land in 2015 during bankruptcy proceedings, in response to EPA's administrative claim against Reichhold Chemical Company.

Mobile ODMDS rule

The final rule was signed on July 17, and will become effective 30 days after publication. The Site Management and Monitoring Plan was transmitted to the Corps' Mobile District on July 17, and was signed by Col. Joly on July 21.

Cross State Air Pollution Rule

On July 21, R4 held a call with OGC and Kentucky DEP on the potential implications of CSAPR update rule remand.

Petroleum Products, Pembroke Park, FL

On July 17, R4 briefed the EPA Administrator on the Proposed Plan. R4 and OLEM are working to address additional information requested regarding community involvement and tenant/business support, as well as providing plans to address the relocation process for small businesses and their workers.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to Report.

Region 5

Hot Topics

Environmental Appeals Board Denies Petition to Review CAA Title V Permit

Key Message: R5 issued a Title V Permit to Veolia ES Technical Solutions in 2019 authorizing the company to operate a hazardous waste incinerator in Sauget, Ill. The American Bottom Conservancy petitioned the EAB to review the permit and challenged two aspects. On July 21, the EAB denied the petition to review the permit.

The decision to deny the permit was based on a previous reexamination of a 2017 permitting decision and the EAB's standard of review. Region 5 remains committed issuing Title V permits based on the criteria laid out in the Clean Air Act.

R5 Responds to Office of the Inspector General Hotline Complaint Regarding Illinois Mobile Home Park

Key Message: On July 22, R5 responded to an OIG hotline complaint regarding actions the Agency has taken to implement and enforce the Safe Drinking Water Act at Triangle Mobile Home Park in Sandwich, Ill. The response describes the activities the Region has taken to oversee state implementation of the Act to protect the health of the Triangle Mobile Home Park water system consumers.

There have been ongoing issues with arsenic contaminants in the drinking-water system at this location; which has resulted in a series of fines, public notices and requirements for issuing bottled water to the residents. Illinois EPA is currently the lead enforcement agency in responding to public health issues. R5 is committed to working with Illinois EPA as it monitors progress at the Triangle Mobile Home Park and is prepared to step in as appropriate in this matter.

RA Thiede Joins Administrator Wheeler in Ohio to Highlight Trash-Free Waters Recipients and Multiple Great Lakes Announcements

Key Message: RA Thiede joined Administrative Wheeler for a series of events in Toledo, Cleveland, and Akron, Ohio, to announce more than \$14 million in Great Lakes grants and projects, including the first round of Great Lakes Trash-Free Waters beach cleanup grants. This two-day trip also included a visit to demonstration farms in the Maumee River basin and a walking tour of the Cuyahoga Gorge Dam, the removal of which is being planned with GLRI funds. There was extensive press coverage of the trip, and also involvement from congressional and other elected officials.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

July 27-29: RA Thiede to Visit Michigan

RA Thiede will be traveling to Michigan for a series of events and meetings. In Traverse City and Detroit, Mich., he will announce more than \$17 million in funding for Great Lakes and watershed protection projects. RA Thiede will also visit Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore for the release of piping plover chicks into their Great Lakes habitat, will meet with the mayor of Flint, Mich., to discuss drinking water and other issues, and will hold a series of meetings with business stakeholder groups – including Michigan Oil & Gas Assn., Michigan Manufacturers Assn., and the Michigan Farm Bureau – in Lansing.

Region 6Hot Topics**COVID-19**

R6 is coordinating closely with our state and tribal environmental and public health agencies as well as EPA HQ offices to elevate and address challenges quickly. Renaissance Tower in Dallas is under 7-day closure. R6 Warehouse in Addison and the Border Office in El Paso are being accessed for mission critical work. R6 currently has one positive case of COVID-19 and the employee has quarantined for 14 days.

January Environmental Services, Inc., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

January Environmental Services, Inc. owns and operates a used oil transportation service and a used oil storage/processing facility in Oklahoma City, Okla. Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality inspections uncovered violations of the used oil regulations and found the facility receiving/storing hazardous waste without a permit in 2010 and again in 2013. ODEQ referred the matter to R6. Despite negotiations since 2019, the parties remain far apart on penalty and injunctive relief. The parties concluded that further negotiations were not likely to lead to settlement and have discontinued them. The Complaint has been approved by the DOJ AAG but has not been filed. Oklahoma will be a co-plaintiff in the matter.

Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico

Los Alamos National Laboratory notified R6 of a change in scope to its planned controlled venting operations of tritium contaminated waste. R6 has reviewed changes to the operation and has developed an approval with supporting documentation. If conducted as described, the venting operation will comply with the Radionuclide NESHAP. DOE is conducting outreach to the Tribes and will brief R6 next week.

National Air Toxics Trends Network, Tulsa, Oklahoma

R6 now has a site in the National Air Toxics Trends Station (NATTS) Network for the first time since 2018. The NATTS Network was developed to fulfill the need for long-term air toxics monitoring data of consistent quality. There are typically more than 100 pollutants monitored at each NATTS site including VOCs, carbonyls, PM10 metals, hexavalent chromium and PAHs. EPA has made the NATTS grant award to ODEQ and sampling has started.

Los Alamos County, New Mexico

The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals has granted EPA's request to hold the Los Alamos Stormwater Discharge for Municipal Sources Designation Decision lawsuit in abeyance for a year. The deadline for applying for a NPDES permit for discharges from municipal separate storm systems (MS4) in the Los Alamos area that were designated as needing permits, has been extended to June 15, 2021. EPA is hosting a virtual meeting with the Los Alamos County, LANL, NMDOT, NMED, and Amigos Bravos on August 20, to discuss next steps, what types of permits to issue (general vs. individual) and what sorts of requirements the permits should contain.

Navajo Water Supply Project, Gallup, New Mexico

EPA R6 and R9 have been invited to join a call with Navajo Nation, NM Governor's Office, Indian Affairs Department, and NM Environment Department regarding the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project on July 23. In a July 8, letter to NMED Cabinet Secretary, the Navajo Nation expressed

concerns regarding the regulation of the Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project (NGWSP). The Navajo Nation requests regulatory authority over all public water systems served by the NGWSP, even those currently under the jurisdiction of New Mexico Environment Department-Drinking Water Bureau and R6.

Nambe Pueblo, Santa Fe County, New Mexico

Nambe is currently exceeding Arsenic MCL levels and is close to exceeding Uranium MCL levels in Drinking Water. On July 21, the Nambe Unilateral Administrative Order was approved by OECA and issued by R6. The order requires the Pueblo to make plant improvements and requires the Nambe to provide Public Notice to all system users regarding the status of their drinking water.

Mosaic Fertilizer, Uncle Sam Plant, Convent, Louisiana

Geotechnical workshops are being conducted to reach consensus on the safest path forward for continued use of the facility's Gyp Stack System. As a result of the previous meetings, Mosaic will install additional instrumentation on the north face of Stack 4 and the south slope of Stacks 1 thru 3, in order to achieve more precise measurement of movement. LDEQ, DOJ, and EPA met on Wednesday, July 22, to draft partial responses to Mosaic's invocation of Dispute Resolution over requirements in the revised Closure Plan. Mosaic continues to remove wastewater from Pond 4 and the Emergency Diversion Impoundment (EDI). Pond 4, which contained one billion gallons when Mosaic first reported the Critical Condition, now contains 82 million gallons. Heading into peak hurricane season (August/September), Uncle Sam has capacity to manage a 20-inch rainfall; 36 inches if using the EDI.

Denka, LaPlace, Louisiana

R6 continues to operate the air monitoring network funded by OAR and chloroprene data through June 10, has been posted on our public website. EPA OECA is currently in the Initial Phase of SPod deployment, having installed the last two SPods on July 2, and calibration is expected to take about two months. Based on this schedule, EPA OAR is considering temporarily extended community air monitoring until the SPods' Operational Phase is initiated. At that time, we will discontinue and remove the community air monitoring network. The SPods are expected to continue operating until about March 2021.

Tar Creek Superfund Site, Oklahoma

On June 22, EPA received two requests to extend the review and public comment period for the OU5 Human Health Risk Assessment at the Tar Creek Superfund site. In response, EPA granted an extension for the review until August 17. Currently, no comments have been received.

Underground Storage Tank Program, Louisiana

R6 approved revisions to the Louisiana Underground Storage Tank (UST) program. The Louisiana UST regulations will go into effect on August 3.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

SO2 Nonattainment Areas, Freestone, Anderson, Rusk, Panola, Titus Counties, Texas

By July 28, EPA intends final action issuing a finding of failure to submit to Texas. On April 27, the Sierra Club filed a mandatory duty lawsuit in the D.C. District Court alleging that EPA failed to issue to the State of Texas a finding of failure to timely submit attainment plans for the Freestone and Anderson Counties, Rusk and Panola Counties, and Titus County SO2 nonattainment areas. Texas's

deadline to submit these SIPs was July 2018. EPA's response to the Complaint has been extended to August 10.

Texas Construction Permit SIP, Texas

TCEQ will be adopting the proposed revisions to the Texas SIP to allow for construction prior to permit amendment issuance for certain minor NSR permit actions. Our rulemaking action is being proposed in parallel with the state's rulemaking action. TCEQ anticipates adoption of the final SIP revision in July 2020, with the SIP revision submitted in August 2020.

Solid Waste Incineration Negative Declarations, Arkansas and New Mexico

By July 28, R6 intends to propose approval of a proposed action to accept CAA section 111(d) negative declarations for incinerators subject to the Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration units (CISWI) emission guidelines in Arkansas, New Mexico and Albuquerque-Bernalillo County, New Mexico.

Albuquerque NSPS and NESHAP, New Mexico

By July 29, R6 intends to propose approval of the request to update delegation of certain NSPS and the NESHAP standards, with the exception of sources located in Indian Country.

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| July 28 | Groundbreaking ceremony for wastewater collection and treatment project in Gustavo Díaz Ordaz, Tamaulipas (Virtual) |
| July 30 | EPA/IOGCC Task Force (Virtual) |
| August 4 | Louisiana AWMA Luncheon (Virtual) |
| August 6 | Texas Environmental SuperConference (Virtual) |

Region 7

Hot Topics

A Former Kansas City Brownfield Site Hosted a Drive-in Concert by Kansas City Jazz Legend Bobby Watson

Key Message: On July 16, a former brownfield site, the historic Westport Middle School in Kansas City, Missouri, now Plexpod Westport Commons, hosted a drive-in concert by Kansas City jazz legend Bobby Watson.

Description:

- The concert was the inaugural concert at the former brownfield site.
- R7 investment of \$23,000, through a Kansas City, Missouri, brownfield assessment grant, helped pave the way for the exciting repurposing of the school. The transformation of the property involving several million dollars, is now the largest co-working facility in the country.
- The Plexpod which opened in 2017, has a campus includes unique co-working and co-living environments, an early learning center, health and wellness programs, a local healthy food system including urban agriculture, a restaurant, and a coffee gallery.
- A recent notable expansion in November 2019 included the transfer of the University of Missouri- Kansas City Bloch Venture Hub to the Plexpod.

R7 Issued a Press Release Noting that it Reached a Settlement with a Property Manager for Alleged Lead-Based Paint Violations in Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri

Key Message: R7 issued a press release noting that it has reached a settlement with PMR Properties, LLC. for alleged violations of lead-based paint regulations under the federal Toxic Substances Control Act. The company manages and leases approximately 400 residential housing units in Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri.

Description:

- KMZU Radio – [Tri-State Rental Company Fined for Lead Paint Non-Disclosure](#)

A Final Notice of Partial Deletion Was Published for the Omaha Lead Superfund Site (Omaha, Nebraska)

Key message: On July 21, a final notice of partial deletion was published in the Federal Register deleting 117 properties from the Omaha Lead Superfund site.

Description:

- The Omaha Lead Superfund site was listed on the national priorities list in 2003 with tens of thousands of residential properties under a remedy to address lead contamination from historic smelting operations in Omaha, Nebraska.
- This is the fifth partial deletion for the site.
- The notice of intent to partially delete was published in the Federal Register on May 12, and the public comment period ended on June 11. No public comments were received.
- To date 2,166 properties have been deleted from the site.

The Big River Mine Tailings OU1 Remedial Action Project was Completed (St. Francois County, Missouri)

Key message: On July 20, the Big River Mine Tailings OU1 remedial action project was completed.

Description:

- The Big River Mine Tailings Superfund site was listed on the national priorities list in 1992 with approximately 5,000 residential properties under a remedy to address lead contamination from historic mining in St. Francois County, Missouri.
- The remedial action project included the cleanup of 15 time-critical properties, including 13 residential yards, 1 baseball complex (3 fields), and 1 soccer field.
- All properties were remediated in compliance with the OU1 record of decision for the Big River Mine Tailings Site.
- The remedial action project was performed as a series of ongoing remedial actions to address residential lead exposure.
- Ongoing residential work continues under additional remedial action projects.

A Time Critical Removal Action was Completed at the B&T Metals Site (Gering, Nebraska)

Key Message: On July 17, a time critical removal action was completed to address lead-contaminated soils at the B&T Metals Site in Gering, NE.

Description:

- The site is a former scrap yard that operated for approximately 60 years until ceasing operation in 2015. For at least 28 years, site operations included automotive and locomotive battery recycling.
- The site was referred to R7 for removal consideration by the Nebraska Department of Energy and Environment on May 14, 2019.
- On site assessment was conducted in the Fall of 2019 and removal actions began in June.
- The removal action consisted of excavating contaminated soil, disposal, and replacement with clean fill on site.

The Fifth Five-Year Review for the Findett-Hayford Bridge Groundwater Site was Signed (St. Charles, Missouri)

Key Message: On July 20, the fifth five-year review for the Findett-Hayford Bridge Road Groundwater site was signed.

Description:

- The five-year review resulted in a determination that a protectiveness determination of the remedy at the site, specifically at OU1 and OU2, cannot be made until further information is obtained.
- The five-year review recommended several follow up actions including:
 - evaluation of options for augmentation of the OU1 remedy;
 - completion of ecological risk assessments; and
 - soil sampling in areas of previous removal actions to determine if soil levels are below human health risk levels.

- Notification of the availability of the final copy of the report for this site was made in a local newspaper.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to Report.

Region 8**Hot Topics****R8 Plans to send Informational Letter to MHA Nation for Clean Water Act Violations on the Fort Berthold Reservation**

The informational letter will alert the MHA Nation of noncompliance at a construction site under its control. EPA is proposing a compliance assistance plan to assist MHA Nation in satisfying its stormwater permit requirements and to improve compliance at future construction projects overseen by MHA Nation. The operator with shared responsibility for noncompliance at the Administration Building construction project is Charging Eagle Enterprises, LLC. Noncompliance by this entity will be handled separately.

EPA and State of Colorado Work Together to Stop Vehicle Aftermarket Defeat Devices

On July 30, EPA and the Colorado Department of Public Health (CDPHE) and Environment will begin distributing and displaying EPA Anti-Tampering Posters at State Emissions Technical Centers. EPA is actively working with states on ways that they can be involved in addressing the tampering and aftermarket defeat device problem, particularly how states can curtail demand for tampering and aftermarket defeat devices.

R8 Filed Consent Agreement with Anadarko Minerals Inc.

R8 filed a Consent Agreement with Anadarko Minerals Inc. to resolve a discharge of oil in violation of Section 311(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act (Act) and violations of Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) regulations under Section 311(j) of the Act. This action resolves a spill of at least 450 bbls of crude oil and 55,000 bbls of produced water into a tributary of Little Porcupine Creek on the Fort Peck Reservation. Anadarko Minerals Inc. completed the clean-up and remediation of the area impacted by the discharge and revised the SPCC Plan for the tank battery. The Consent Agreement includes the payment of a \$200,000 civil penalty and a 30-day comment period will end on August.

MT-WY Multi-Agency Federal Leaders Virtual Call re Drinking Water/Waste Water/Solid Waste in Indian Country

On July 16, the R8 Office of Regional Administrator hosted a call with leaders from multiple federal agencies regarding drinking water, wastewater, and solid waste issues in Indian country in Montana and Wyoming. Federal leaders from USDA RD, USACE, BIA (DOI/IESC), EDA, IHS, and HUD, joined in the call. The agencies will lead sub-workgroups focusing on three action areas identified. The federal partners will host sub-workgroup meetings and reconvene within the next six weeks to identify action plan messages for tribal engagement.

Award of Diesel Emission Reduction Act Competitive Grant to the University of Colorado, Boulder

On July 22, 8 awarded an FY20 DERA grant to CU Boulder. CU Boulder will replace 2 diesel transit buses with battery electric buses using the grant funding. This replacement project for \$791,871 will target vehicles operating within the Boulder County portion of the Denver Metro/North Front Range ozone nonattainment area.

Presentations to Local Idaho Officials and the Public on Kootenai River Impacts from B.C.

Mining

EPA participated in several briefings for local officials in the Kootenai River region in Idaho on July 20 - July 21. The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes asked EPA to assist with a broad background briefing on the history of and impacts to water quality and fish in Lake Koocanusa and the Kootenai River from coal mining in the Elk Valley in southeast British Columbia. Recent data from USGS, EPA and the Kootenai Tribe have demonstrated that selenium and nitrate from Elk Valley mines is affecting Kootenai River water quality and fish in both Montana and Idaho.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- July 25 Regional Administrator will attend a site tour of the Columbia Falls Superfund Site with Administrator Wheeler in Columbia Falls, Montana.
- July 27 RA and COS will meet with Pueblo Mayor Gradisar and County Commissioner Hart and staffers from Senator Gardner's office and tour the Colorado Smelter Superfund site in Pueblo, CO with the EPA Administrator Wheeler.
- July 28 R8 All Hands meeting with RA Sopkin and Administrator Wheeler.
- July 30 RA and COS will participate in a call with all R8 state agriculture commissioners.

Region 9

Hot Topics

New Targeted Brownfields Assessments

Over the past month, we have begun four new assessment projects that will benefit the Ione Band of Miwok Indians, Mariposa County, the City of South San Francisco, and the Navajo Nation. Planned reuses for the target sites include, respectively: a community center, affordable housing and senior living; expansion of the Merced River Trail; a neighborhood park or mixed-use commercial/residential development; and a community center and sports facility.

Argonaut Mine (Jackson, CA)

EPA is preparing to have the EECA approval memo signed by Headquarters. The EECA is to prepare for a non-time critical removal action to excavate and consolidate approximately 100,000 cubic yards of arsenic contaminated mine tailings at the Argonaut Mine site in Jackson California. This work would be for a portion of the site and the Remedial Investigation continues on the remainder of the site. The NTCRA is estimated to cost \$10-11 million. In preparation for public comments and EECA finalization, DTSC and the Water Board will be briefed on July 23, and the RRRT meeting is scheduled for July 31. The EECA for the proposed Non time Critical Removal Action is planned with 30-day public comment starting on August 3.

Atlas Asbestos Mine and Coalinga Asbestos Mine Superfund Sites, Coalinga, Fresno County, CA

On July 13, the Mineral Fire started burning about 8 miles south of the two non-contiguous sites, located in mountainous terrain. Both sites are in the Operation and Maintenance phase of Superfund. While neither site has many structures, much vegetation, nor underground mine workings to burn, EPA coordinated with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the land manager for the area (and a Potentially Responsible Party (PRP)), and the entity in charge of the Fire Suppression Plan, which called for air resources to suppress and slow the fire, instead of having personnel on the ground in the asbestos area. EPA also coordinated with PRP groups for both sites, our state counterparts at DTSC (Sacramento), California Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Fresno), and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. As of the morning of July 21, the fire had not advanced northward, burned 28,500 acres, was 68% contained, evacuation orders had been lifted, and BLM reported that the fire has been held south of the sites and is currently not a threat to the site.

Phase 2 Settlement, Addendum 1 Water Study at Claim 28 Mine (Navajo Nation)

Last week, the Phase 2 Trustee, Derrith Watchman-Moore, submitted a technical memorandum and a draft Stage 2 work plan for the water study at the Claim 28 mine in the Tachee-Blue Gap chapter and as part of the Black Mesa Mining District of Navajo Nation. The technical memo reports results from a desktop review, a geologic field survey, and multiple geophysical surveys at the Claim 28 mine. It also includes a Conceptual Site Model and is accompanied by three-dimensional viewing files that the EPA and Navajo Nation EPA can use to virtually explore the site. The draft Stage 2 work plan includes proposed sampling well placement and additional soil sampling in support of the Baseline Risk Assessment that will be conducted at the site. The Removal Site Evaluation report, finalized in 2018 by the Phase 1 Trust, has provided key data and analysis used in the water study. The Navajo Nation EPA and US EPA R9 will jointly review and provide comments that will be incorporated into revisions of the technical memo and the Stage 2 work plan. Near to this site are some of the newly identified mines selected for investigation under Addendum 2 to the settlement. In total, all the mines in the Black Mesa

Mining District are now funded through investigation and the Claim 28 mine is funded through cleanup.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Border Stakeholder Meeting

This week, we will host the second Interagency Consultation Group (IACG) virtual meeting as part of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement (USMCA) coordination process. The focus of the meeting will include discussion on the workgroup charge, input on the technical analysis process, and thoughts on the public engagement process moving forward. The purpose of the IACG is for stakeholders to engage and provide input to EPA on the planning, design, and construction of water infrastructure improvements as the value engineering process initiates along the San Diego/Tijuana border region. Participants will include federal, state, and local entities, and OW, OITA, and R9 senior management. Virtual meetings will take place once every two months for approximately one year.

Border 2020 Program Binational California-Baja California Meeting

On 28 July, we will participate in a virtual binational meeting with the North American Development Bank (NADB) and recent grantees to share progress on regional projects selected in 2019. Border Program partners will include California and Baja CA state agencies, SEMARNAT, and interested non-governmental organizations covering marine litter, environmental health, air monitoring, and emergency preparedness.

Tribal Consultation with Navajo Nation on NPDES Permits

This week, we will offer the Navajo Nation the opportunity to consult regarding EPA's anticipated receipt and consideration of NPDES permit renewal applications for the NTUA Window Rock Wastewater Treatment Plant, NTUA Ganado Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), Wingate High School WWTF, and Pine Hill School WWTF located within the Navajo Nation.

Training Tribes on Developing Solid Waste Transfer Stations

Starting July 28, we will conduct a four-part virtual training for 35 tribes on developing and operating small solid waste transfer stations. This training is a collaboration between R9 and R10, along with our contracting officer and tribal partners, to develop a new training curriculum to fill ongoing unaddressed needs. Registration for the class filled within a week and we plan to repeat the training in FY21 to meet interest and needs of our tribal partners.

Newport Bay Dredging

This week, we will submit our concurrence to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for ocean disposal of 90,000 cubic yards of clean dredged material from Newport Bay. We are continuing to engage with the USACE and City of Newport on the proposed dredging and disposal of other channels within Newport Bay that contain elevated concentrations of mercury, PCBs, and DDTs.

Region 10Hot Topics**Sampling of PFAS Contaminated Soil in Alaska Postponed**

Given the challenges with field work this season and the specific logistical challenges with Alaska, ORD has notified the Moose Creek US Ecology soil incineration facility that they will not be sampling there this season. The facility, which incinerates PFAS-contaminated soil, has worked with ORD over the past couple of years in ORD's effort to develop methods for analyzing PFAS and its combustion products in emissions. ORD had originally hoped to visit the facility this summer to conduct a PFAS mass balance across the facility.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Alaska Performance Partnership Agreement Kick-Off Meeting**

On July 29, R10 Administrator Chris Hladick along with the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation will participate in the kick-off meeting for the next two year Performance Partnership Agreement between the two agencies. R10 extended the current PPA until September 30th due to COVID. This kick off meeting will be for the upcoming two-year cycle.

R9 and R10 Host Training re: Small-Scale Transfer Stations on Tribal Lands

From July 28, to August 6, R9 and R10 will host a free online training course: "Developing Small-Scale Solid Waste Transfer Stations on Tribal Lands." The course will consist of four real-time, interactive webinars designed for Tribal environmental staff. Participants will learn to evaluate different options for transfer stations or community convenience areas or drop-off sites serving smaller populations, right size a transfer facility for their needs, and understand siting concerns and resource needs.

Final NPDES Permit for City of Post Falls, Idaho

During the week of July 27, R10 will issue a final NPDES permit to the City of Post Falls for discharges from its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). The public comment period closed on June 22, and R10 received a final CWA Section 401 certification from the State of Idaho on June 12. This action is part of the ongoing effort to eliminate the backlog of administratively extended NPDES permits in Idaho.

Draft NPDES Permit for City of Caldwell, Idaho

R10 completed coordination with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to provide CWA Section 401 certification on a draft NPDES permit for discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) owned and/or operated by City of Caldwell in Canyon County, Idaho. R10 intends to begin a 45-public comment period on the draft permit within the next 14 days. This action is part of the ongoing effort to eliminate the backlog of administratively extended NPDES permits in Idaho.

Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics

- **Packages for Signature:**
 - Technical Correction to the Flex-fuel Vehicle Provisions in CAFE Regulations (DFR and NPRM)
- **Packages at OMB for Review:**
 - Biogenic CO₂ (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED February 24)
 - 2021 RFS Rule (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED May 13)
 - Amendments Related to Marine Diesel Engine Emission Standards (Final Rule: RECEIVED May 15)
 - Oil and Gas Sector Reconsideration (Final Rule: RECEIVED June 2)
 - Oil and Gas Sector Review (Final Rule: RECEIVED June 2)
 - Plantwide Applicability Limitation (Final Guidance: RECEIVED June 29)
 - NESHAP Amendment: General Provisions for Once In Always In (Final Rule: RECEIVED July 16)
- **Packages Heading to OMB Soon**
 - Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Nonattainment New Source Review (NSR): Project Emissions Accounting (Final Rule)
 - Alaska Remote Generators Report to Congress

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Energy Policy Research Foundation, INC (EPRINC) Meeting

Next week, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Anne Austin, will speak on the EPRINC webinar on the SAFE rule.

NAAQS Kaizen Project

Next week, the second set of NAAQS kaizen project workshops will be held virtually. The workshop will focus on mapping the current NAAQS assessment process, exploring the value and/or wastes for various steps in process, and identifying and prioritizing opportunities for improvements. Significant progress has already been made in several areas during the first set of workshops held earlier this month, including completion of a SIPOC diagram, production of initial drafts of process maps, and preliminary brainstorming on how to improve the IRP. Additional workshops will be held to complete the future state map for individual and all NAAQS assessments and put visual management in place.

New Indoor Air and Coronavirus Web Content

On July 17, new content on Indoor Air and Coronavirus was posted to the EPA coronavirus website. This content supplements previously posted FAQs about indoor air and COVID-19. This new web content provides more detailed information about the potential spread of COVID-19 through airborne transmission indoors and steps that can be taken to reduce potential airborne transmission of COVID-19. (<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/indoor-air-and-coronavirus-covid-19>)

Technical Webinar Series: Healthy Indoor Environments in Schools: Plans, Practices and Principles for Maintaining Healthy Learning Environments

Beginning next week and continuing over three (3) weeks, OAR will host and facilitate a series of three (3) technical webinars for school-based stakeholders to share best practices for maintaining good indoor air quality, with a focus on heating/ventilation/air conditioning systems; cleaning and maintenance procedures to aid schools in implementing recent CDC guidance; creating a proactive, comprehensive indoor air quality management plan that addresses the range of indoor environmental issues common in the school setting.

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Hot Topics

List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)

OCSPP completed the review of testing data against SARS-CoV-2 for 1 product already on List N. There are now 3 total products on List N that have been tested and proven effective against SARS-CoV-2.

Adding List B products to List N

On July 23, OCSPP added 32 products proven to kill the pathogen that causes tuberculosis to List N. Registered tuberculocidal disinfectants on List B qualify for List N because they have demonstrated efficacy against a pathogen harder to kill than SARS-CoV-2. The pathogenic bacteria that causes tuberculosis, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, is considered more difficult to kill than any virus. OCSPP anticipates expanding List N to include these products will benefit healthcare facilities, which already regularly use these potent disinfectants to kill a broad range of dangerous pathogens.

Statement on Applicator Certification During COVID 19

By the end of July, OCSPP plans to publish a statement on modifications to pesticide applicator certification programs during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Authorities with EPA-approved plans have had to make changes due to circumstances stemming from COVID-19. The statement clarifies which changes require advance approval and the approval process. In addition, certifications issued under the EPA-administered Plan in Indian country will be extended to allow more time for recertifications. The memo is currently with OMB completing interagency review.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Naphthalene and Para-dichlorobenzene (“Mothballs”) Proposed Interim Decisions

The week of August 3, OCSPP anticipates publishing the Proposed Interim Decisions (PIDs) for naphthalene and para-dichlorobenzene (PDCB), the active ingredients for mothballs. In the draft human health risk assessments, OCSPP identified potential inhalation exposure risks of concern and potential risks to children from ingestion. In the PIDs, EPA is proposing to clarify the current requirement (already on all product labels) that naphthalene and PDCB products may only be applied in airtight containers to minimize product vapors from seeping into residential living spaces, thus lowering inhalation exposure. EPA is also proposing requirements that all products with indoor uses be packaged in sachets or other protective packaging to minimize the likelihood of children ingesting loose mothballs, pellets, or flakes. The registrants have agreed to the proposed mitigation. After considering public comments, the final step would be to issue the Interim Decisions in early 2021.

Consolidation of Eight Currently Approved Information Collection Requests (ICRs)

During the week of July 27, OCSPP anticipates publishing a Federal Register Notice (FRN) on a new ICR, before submitting it to OMB for review and approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). This ICR consolidates collection activities covered by eight currently approved individual ICRs, due to the shared information collection method via the Pesticide Submission Portal in EPA’s Central Data Exchange (CDX). This will clarify the Portal’s capabilities for respondents and will streamline EPA’s ICR tracking, renewal, and development process. EPA will consider comments received and amend the ICR as appropriate prior to OMB submission.

Proposed Decision to Register Tiafenacil

By July 31, OCSPP expects to publish a Proposed Decision to register tiafenacil, a new herbicide proposed for pre-plant and pre-emergence use in corn (all types except sweet corn), cotton, soybeans, and wheat, and for postemergence use in grapes, cotton, fallow and non-crop areas. Tiafenacil may be useful for control or suppression of problematic and difficult-to-control glyphosate-resistant weeds, including Palmer amaranth, waterhemp, and marehail. The need for additional tools to manage these resistant weeds has grown as herbicide resistance, a difficult and costly problem for growers, spreads. EPA has not identified any human health risks of concern or unreasonable adverse effects to plants and wildlife for the proposed uses. Label language is proposed to reduce risk to non-target plants by limiting exposure to the herbicide outside of treated areas. The Proposed Decision will include a 30-day comment period. EPA is not aware of any issues that may cause noteworthy stakeholder concern and does not expect to receive significant comments.

Chitosan Minimum Risk Ingredient Listing Notification to USDA

During the week of August 3, OCSPP anticipates publishing a FRN announcing that EPA has submitted to the USDA Secretary a copy of the proposed rule, "Pesticides; Proposal to Add Chitosan to the List of Active Ingredients Permitted in Exempted Minimum Risk Pesticides Products." In 2018, EPA received a petition requesting adding the substance commonly called chitosan to the list of active ingredients eligible for EPA's Minimum Risk Pesticide Exemption, 40 CFR 152.25(f)(1). This rule will propose doing so, providing meaningful regulatory relief by exempting the petitioner from most burdens associated with FIFRA pesticide registration requirements. Chitosan is a naturally occurring substance found in the cell walls of nearly all fungi. Chitin and its derivative chitosan occur naturally in the shells of all crustaceans (i.e., crab, shrimp, lobster) and the exoskeletons of most insects. EPA's scientific review supports the petitioner's minimum risk claims. FIFRA § 25(a)(2)(A) requires the EPA Administrator to provide the USDA Secretary with a copy of any proposed rule at least 60 days before signing it in proposed form for Federal Register publication. If the USDA Secretary comments in writing regarding the proposed rule within 30 days, EPA must include those comments and EPA's response with the proposal in the Federal Register. If the Secretary does not comment in writing within 30 days, the Administrator may sign the proposed rule for publication.

1-bromopropane (1-BP) Final Risk Evaluation

On August 4, OCSPP will release the final risk evaluation (RE) for 1-BP. This will be the second of the first 10 final REs released under amended TSCA. 1-BP is used as a solvent in commercial and industrial applications and as a reactant in the manufacturing of other chemical substances. Consumer uses include adhesives, sealants, degreasers, cleaners, and automobile care products. The final RE shows that there are unreasonable risks to workers, occupational non-users, consumers, and bystanders under 16 out of 25 conditions of use. OCSPP expects this action to result in similar public response as the publication of methylene chloride.

Receipt of NRDC Petition and Opening of Public Comment Period

Soon, OCSPP plans to announce in the Federal Register receipt of a Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) petition requesting revocation all tolerances for residues of the neonicotinoid pesticides (acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam) in or on raw agricultural commodities and cancellation of all uses for which risks of concern cannot be mitigated. The FRN will also announce the opening of the docket for a 30-day public comment period on the petition.

Office of the Chief Financial OfficerHot Topics

- On July 15, the Deputy CFO requested survey responses from NPMs and regions to help identify their top Multi-Year Plan proposals. OCFO will use the survey results and the input from the July 14 SLC Budget Forum to prepare FY 2022 OMB Submission options for the Administrator. OCFO is briefing the Acting Deputy Administrator on July 24, on these options. After getting the Administrator's decisions, guidance to the agency on the Submission will be provided in early August. The Submission is due to OMB in early September.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- On July 23, OCFO issued EPA's integrated guidance for developing FY 2021 AA/RA bowling chart metrics, new headquarters/regional division measures (in conjunction with OCIR/Region), and annual performance goals for the FY 2022 Annual Performance Plan/OMB Submission. The guidance incorporates input from program and regional office customers, which focused mainly on the timing of major milestones. OCFO also worked with the Assistant Deputy Administrator to develop the guidance. On July 27, OCFO will hold a kick-off meeting with the planning community to review the guidance and answer questions.
- OCFO and OCIR are working with the Acting Deputy Administrator's office to reschedule the meeting of EPA senior leaders and Environmental Council of the States Officers, originally planned for July 22, to the week of July 27. OCFO and OITA also are working together to schedule a similar meeting with National Tribal Council in August. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss ways to advance shared state/agency priorities and address implementation issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic as part of FY 2022 planning and budgeting process and final year of FY 2018-2022 EPA Strategic Plan.
- The next E-Enterprise for the Environment monthly webinar is scheduled for August 6, from 1 – 3 PM ET and will feature Storytelling with ArcGIS StoryMaps. More information, including registration, can be found at: <https://www.eenationalmeeting.net/webinars>.

GAO and OIG Audits and Activities

- The following tables summarize new agency GAO and OIG audits and other related activities since the last report through July 17.

| OIG Audits – Week Ending 7/17/2020 | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|---------------------|
| Audit # | Title | Status | Office | Next Steps/Comments |
| None | | | | |

| GAO Audits – Week Ending 7/17/2020 | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------|---|---|
| Audit Type | Title | Office | Engagement/ Report No. | Next Steps/Comments |
| Exit Conference | Contamination From Certain Man-Made Chemicals (Formerly PFAS) | OW, OCSPP, OLEM | Engagement Code 103982 | The Exit Conference is scheduled for 8/13/2020. |
| | Lead and Copper Rule | OA | Engagement Code 103512 | The Exit Conference is scheduled for 7/29/2020. |
| Notification Letter/ Questionnaire | Agencies' Use of Continuity of Operations (COOP) Plans in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic | OMS/OLEM | Engagement Code 104295 | The notification letter was received on 7/16/2020. OMS is working to schedule an entrance conference. |
| | Implementation of Deregulatory Actions | OP | Engagement Code 104305 | The notification letter was received on 7/13/2020. OP is working to schedule an entrance conference. |
| Statement of Facts | EPA Grants to Tribes | OITA | Engagement Code 103628 | The Statement of Facts was received on 7/2/2020. EPA hopes to provide final comments by 7/24/2020. |
| Draft Report | Child Care Facilities: Federal Agencies Need to Enhance Monitoring and Collaboration to Help Assure Drinking Water is Safe from Lead | OA/OW | Report No. GAO-20-597 Engagement Code 103241 | The report contains 2 recommendations for OW. The formal response is due to GAO by 8/17/2020. |

Other

- The migration of part of the agency's financial reporting infrastructure and tools from the CGI Federal Phoenix Data Center to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Computing Center, originally planned to be completed on July 27, has been completed ahead of schedule. The related tools and systems that were unavailable due to the migration are now available to the agency.
- OCFO encourages agency personnel to participate in upcoming semi-annual role-based PeoplePlus training sessions for which materials have recently been updated. PeoplePlus Coordinator Training was held on July 23. Staff should go to the [Training Registration Link](#) to register for the appropriate time and attendance system training session(s):

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| July 30 | PeoplePlus Timekeeper training; |
| August 6 | PeoplePlus Supervisor training; and |
| August 13 | PeoplePlus Employee training. |

Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Hot Topics

- Ongoing** OCIR inquiry tracking of COVID-19 impacts on agency programs: this past week, managed inquiries re: disinfectant product approvals, Congressional briefing requests.
- Ongoing** COVID-19-tracking state and local inquiries of national significance re: grants, fuel waivers, enforcement.
- July 27** U.S. Conference of Mayors will host a Briefing on Local Officials' Concerns Regarding Clean Water Act Assessment Methods.
- July 27** Briefing for Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Minority staff providing a Brownfields 101.
- July 28** EPA staff will have a technical scoping call with Rep. Garamendi's staff about a bill they are contemplating regarding [RFS] E-RINs.
- July 29** House Technology & Infrastructure/Water Resources and Environment subcommittee TA conference call on the Bubbly Creek Restoration Project (OECA, OGC, OCIR).
- July 30** Rep. Murphy (NC) call with Harmful Algal Bloom Interagency Working Group (IWG-HABHRCA) about freshwater-related issues in the Chowan River w/EPA, NOAA, USGS & USDA.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- July 28** House energy and Commerce Committee will hold a hearing on Drinking Water Quality (no EPA Witness).
- July 28** Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold a hearing entitled "Full Committee Hearing to Examine Development and Deployment of Large-Scale Carbon Dioxide Management Technologies."
- July 28** House Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change of the Committee on Energy and Commerce will hold a virtual hearing via Cisco Webex entitled "There's Something in the Water: Reforming Our Nation's Drinking Water Standards."
- July 29** Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works will hold a full committee hearing entitled, "Lessons Learned from Remote Working during COVID-19: Can the Government Save Money Through Maximizing Efficient Use of Leased Space?"
- July 29** Senate Indian Affairs will hold a Tribal Bills Markup (No witness).

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance**Hot Topics****Inspection Expectations for Partner Agencies During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**

On July 22, OECA AA Susan Bodine sent a letter to states, tribes, territories, and local agencies (partner agencies) recognizing the challenges in meeting inspection commitments during the COVID-19 public health emergency and providing information on the flexibilities OECA will provide in adjusting them through March 2021. The information in the letter applies to inspection commitments under those compliance monitoring programs that OECA oversees, as well as inspection commitments made as part of State and Tribal Assistance Grants under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act and the Toxic Substances Control Act. OECA is recommending that partner agencies perform inspections, when it is safe to do so, consistent with their priorities and applicable OECA program priorities. However, when a partner inspection cannot be performed due to COVID-19, OECA is encouraging the use of off-site compliance monitoring activities. Included with the letter are OECA's recommended processes for adjusting partner agency inspection commitments and requirements to document the use of any off-site compliance monitoring activities in order to provide credit towards compliance monitoring accomplishments under OECA's Compliance Monitoring strategies and grant commitments.

Policy Regarding Access at Federal Facilities

On July 20, OECA issued a "Policy Reaffirming the United States EPA Authority to Access Facilities and Conduct Inspections without Providing Personally Identifiable Information (with Limited Exceptions for Federal Facilities)." The policy provides protocols for EPA to follow at federal facilities with military, intelligence or nuclear-related functions and other federal facilities with special security requirements necessitated by their mission or circumstance.

Call with Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency

OCSPP holds periodic coordination calls with Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) which is responsible for the regulation of pest control products under its Pest Control Products Act and companion regulations. PMRA is considering several changes to its regulatory scheme. Some of these involve recordkeeping requirements and label enforcement. At OCSPP's request, OECA's Pesticide and Tanks Enforcement Branch provided an overview of pesticide label enforcement in the United States under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. A follow up discussion will be scheduled in the near future.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

On July 28, OECA, along with OLEM, OITA, and R10, will hold a government to government consultation with the Nez Pearce tribe regarding the Stibnite Mine Site in Idaho.

Office of General CounselHot Topics***Rosado v. Wheeler*, No. 17-cv-04843 (E.D.N.Y. July 17)**

New Decision: The court granted EPA's motion for summary judgment and denied New York's cross-motion for summary judgment, upholding EPA's designation of the Eastern Long Island Sound Disposal Site (Site). New York (and the Town of Southold and County of Suffolk) raised claims under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), and Administrative Procedures Act (APA). In the Order, the Court held: (1) EPA reasonably determined the "need" for a disposal site to the extent that site designation requires a determination of need; (2) EPA's assessment of commercial vessel traffic was supported by the record and consistent with EPA site designation regulations; (3) the MPRSA regulations do not require the selection of historically used disposal sites; (4) EPA reasonably accommodated overlapping Clean Water Act and the MPRSA uses anticipated for the Site; (5) and EPA's consistency determination under the CZMA was reasoned and thorough.

***National Family Farm Coalition, et al. v. EPA*, No. 17-70810 (9th Cir. July 22); *Natural Resources Defense Council v. EPA*, No. 17-70817 (9th Cir. July 22)**

New Decision: Concerning EPA's registration of the herbicide "Enlist Duo," the 9th Circuit denied National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC) petitioners' petition for review (based on the Endangered Species Act (ESA)); granted in part and denied in part Natural Resources Defense Council's (NRDC) petition for review (based on the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)); and remanded without vacatur. The court: (1) rejected NFFC Petitioners' various challenges to EPA's "no effect" finding as to threatened and endangered species and their habitats under the ESA; rejected NRDC's claims that EPA applied the wrong standard for registration under FIFRA; 3) rejected NRDC's claim that EPA failed to adequately consider the glyphosate component of Enlist Duo (which contains both 2,4-D and glyphosate); 4) rejected NRDC's claim that EPA failed to adequately assess the volatility of Enlist Duo; and 5) rejected NRDC's claim that EPA failed to consider the alleged "synergistic" effects of tank-mixing Enlist Duo with the herbicide glufosinate. The court agreed with NRDC's claim that EPA failed to adequately consider effects to monarch butterflies (not an ESA-listed species) from destruction of milkweed (monarch habitat) on growers' fields under FIFRA. The Court remanded the decision for consideration of on-field effects to monarchs under FIFRA but did not vacate the registration.

***Neighbors for Environmental Justice v. EPA*, No. 20-72091 (9th Cir. filed July 16)**

New Litigation: Neighbors for Environmental Justice, New Jersey Work Environmental Council, Sierra Club, and several others filed a petition for review of the methylene chloride risk evaluation under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The petitioners seek review of the agency's risk evaluation "determining that the chemical methylene chloride does not present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment under certain conditions of use and declining to consider certain uses and pathways."

***State of California et al. v. Wheeler*, No. 3:20-cv-4869 (N.D. Ca. filed July 21)**

New Litigation: The States of California, Washington, New York, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin, the Commonwealths of Massachusetts and Virginia, the District of Columbia, and the California State Water Resources Control Board, by and through their Attorneys General, filed a complaint challenging EPA's final Clean Water Act (CWA) 401 rule (85 Fed. Reg.

42,210) published on July 13. The States allege that the rule violates the CWA and the Administrative Procedure Act. Plaintiffs seek an order declaring the rule unlawful and vacating it.

Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Hot Topics

Summit of the Americas

The State Department hosted the first interagency meeting to begin the policy development process for the 2021 Summit of the Americas (SOA), which will take place in the U.S. in the Fall of 2021. The triennial SOA is the only meeting among all Heads of State and Heads of Government in the Americas and engages key stakeholders to produce priority signature initiatives. State has developed three draft goals for the Summit: 1) create sustainable economic growth and investment; 2) counter malign influence; and 3) reinforce the endurance of democratic values and institutions; and six draft objectives: 1) close the infrastructure gap in the Americas by 2030; 2) increase regional transparency and accountability; 3) reaffirm our Hemisphere's commitment to democracy and freedom; 4) provide career and technical training for 10 million in the workforce by 2030; 5) double the region's digital economic output by 2025; and 6) strengthen regional resilience amid COVID-19.

Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC)

The ETTAC is comprised of private sector environmental technologies industry leaders from the air, water, and waste sectors. Over the course of its charter, the group formulates recommendations to the Secretary of Commerce pertaining to increasing U.S. exports in the environmental sector. The ETTAC presented their recommendations to Deputy Secretary of Commerce, Karen Dunn Kelley. Following these presentations, Commerce Assistant Secretary for Industry and Analysis Nazak Nikakhtar and EPA Assistant Administrator Chad McIntosh provided responses to the ETTAC's recommendations. The issues discussed included US-UK trade negotiations, USMCA implementation, OECD negotiations on plastics, and waste management and marine litter.

Brazil Updates

On July 15, Brazilian President Bolsonaro signed the new Sanitation Framework Law, which encourages private sector investment to help Brazil reach universal coverage by expanding services to 34 million Brazilians without in-home drinking water and 100 million without sewage collection by 2033. The law also calls for the closure of open-air dumps by 2024. With an expected investment of up to \$150 billion, the new basic sanitation framework is viewed as an important piece for Brazil's post-pandemic economic recovery.

Brazil is also preparing for the coming Amazon fire season by mobilizing its military to combat the fires and has centralized the management of the Amazon under the National Amazon Council. With deforestation trending upward and continued drought conditions in some regions, experts warn 2020 could be another intense fire season in the Amazon. The government was criticized last year for its slow response to the fires, but in 2020, the government has authorized the military to lead an interagency effort to enforce environmental laws and combat fires in the Amazon. USAID plans to expand its fire management cooperation work in Brazil through an additional \$5 million of funding with the USFS, and USAID is also developing a \$500,000 fire management program for this fire season.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- July 23** EPA (OITA and OW) will conduct a Water/Wastewater Infrastructure Finance Webinar with several Brazilian agencies under the auspices of the EPA-MMA MOU signed by Administrator Wheeler and Brazilian Minister of Environment Salles during the Administrator's visit to Brazil earlier this year.
- July 28** OITA AA Chad McIntosh, OECA AA Susan Bodine, and AIEO Director Scott Mason will hold a government to government consultation meeting with the Nez Perce Tribe.

Office of the Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics

Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR).

- CCR Phase 2 proposed rule (package 1) – On October 15, 2019, the public comment period ended; OLEM is reviewing the comments.
- CCR permitting NPRM (package 3) – The public comment period ended July 19, 2020.
- CCR litigation packages (package 2, parts A and B) – We anticipate OMB concluding its review of the Part A final rulemaking package this week. This rule is scheduled for signature by the end of July. For the Part B final rule, we anticipate final management review and workgroup closure to begin July 29, 2020.
- CCR Legacy Units ANPRM – On July 22, 2020, OP submitted the package to OMB for review.

PCB Extraction NPRM

OLEM is working on the package and we anticipate it going to OP soon for OMB review.

Subpart J Monitoring Rule

The Final Agency Review meeting is scheduled for August 20.

Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites

We are working with R2 on Maywood, Woodbrook Road, and Rolling Knolls; R3 on Barefoot; R4 on Oak Ridge, Birmingham 35th Ave., and Petroleum Products Corporation; R5 on Sandoval; and R10 on Portland Harbor, Quendall Terminal, Bradford Island, and East Waterway.

CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance (next three sectors)

The public comment period for the Industry 2 (Petroleum and Coal) rule ended on February 21. On May 6, an options selection meeting for 108(b) additional classes was held. The public comment period for the Industry 3 (Chemical Manufacturing) NPRM ended May 6.

PFAS.

- Designation of PFOA/PFOS as CERCLA Hazardous Substances NPRM – The rule package was submitted to the Office of Policy on September 20, 2019, for OMB review.
- National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) PFAS Waste Destruction and Disposal Interim Guidance – Submitted to OP on July 7 and submission to OMB is expected soon.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Administrator's Emphasis List (AEL). A meeting to discuss the AEL is scheduled with the Administrator for July 31.

EPA 50th Anniversary. July is "Land" month. OLEM continues to work with OPA to highlight its programs throughout the month.

Office of Mission Support

Hot Topics

Headquarters Conference Center

Conference Center construction is underway and on schedule. A virtual tour is available to view here: <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=onptUWKi97D>.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

2020 Women's History Month Event Celebration

The program will be a virtual live event with a panel discussion recognizing women at EPA in the scientific field with the theme, *Forging New Career Pathways for Women Scientists at EPA: What more can I do with my degree?* The event is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, from 10:30 to 11:30 AM (EDT).

Office of PolicyHot Topics**Pebble Mine Final Environmental Impact Statement**

On Monday, July 20, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska, filed its Pebble Mine, Final Environmental Impact Statement, for a July 24, Federal Register publication. The public comment period will commence on Friday, July 24, and end on August 24.

EO 13891 - Guidance portal

EPA's guidance portal will be updated to include additional active guidance documents by July 31, in accordance with Section 3(b) of EO 13891.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

| Active Interagency Reviews from OMB | |
|---|---------------------|
| Subject | OMB Due Date |
| DOC/NOAA NPRM: Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan Modifications to Reduce Serious Injury and Mortality of Large Whales in Commercial Trap/Pot Fisheries Along the U.S. East Coast | 07/23/2020 |
| DOT/PHMSA NPRM: Pipeline Safety: Class Location Change Requirements | 07/23/2020 |
| DOI/FWS FRM: Migratory Bird Hunting; Final 2020–21 Frameworks for Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations | 07/23/2020 |
| DOI/FWS NPRM (Pass-back): Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision of the Regulations for Designating Critical Habitat, ESA 4(b)(2) | 07/23/2020 |
| USDA/NRCS FRM: Conservation Stewardship Program | 07/24/2020 |
| DOC/NOAA FRM: Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Regional Fishery Management Council Membership; Financial Disclosure and Recusal | 07/28/2020 |
| OPM NPRM: Reduction in Force | 07/29/2020 |
| DOT/FAA FRM: Streamlined Launch and Reentry License Requirements | 07/31/2020 |
| DOC/BIS NPRM: Commerce Control List: Proposed Controls on “Software” for the Operation of Certain Automated Nucleic Acid Assemblers and Synthesizers; Request for Comments | 08/03/2020 |
| DOD/ACE NPRM (Pass-back): Proposal to Reissue and Modify Nationwide Permits* | N/A |
| Documents Sent to the OFR from July 15-23, 2020 | |

| FRL # | Title | Date Sent to FR |
|-------------------|--|------------------------|
| 10012-22-Region 9 | Air Plan Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval; California; San Diego | 07-23-2020 |
| 10008-20-OCSPP | Ethalfluralin; Pesticide Tolerances | 07-22-2020 |
| 10010-88-OAR | Control of Air Pollution from Airplanes and Airplane Engines: GHG Emission Standards and Test Procedures | 07-22-2020 |
| 10011-49-Region 6 | New Mexico: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions and Incorporation by Reference | 07-22-2020 |
| 10011-75-Region 5 | Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Plan Elements for the Chicago Nonattainment Area for the 2008 Ozone Standard | 07-22-2020 |
| 10011-50-Region 6 | New Mexico: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions and Incorporation by Reference | 07-22-2020 |
| 10011-84-OAR | Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Extension of the Laboratory and Analytical Use Exemption for Essential Class I Ozone-Depleting Substances | 07-22-2020 |
| 10011-88-Region 6 | National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the Cimarron Mining Corporation Superfund Site | 07-22-2020 |
| 10012-63-Region 5 | National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the Scrap Processing Co., Inc. Superfund Site | 07-22-2020 |
| 10012-97-OGC | Streamlining Procedures for Permit Appeals | 07-22-2020 |
| 10012-48-OAR | SmartWay Transport Partnership ICR Renewal | 07-22-2020 |
| 10012-62-Region 5 | National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the Scrap Processing Co., Inc. Superfund Site | 07-22-2020 |
| 10011-36-ORD | Notice of Public Comment Period on Technical Documents for External Peer Review and the Pool of Candidate Peer Reviewers for a Report on Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Modeling for Chloroprene and a Supplemental Analysis of Metabolite Clearance | 07-21-2020 |
| 10011-89-Region 4 | National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Partial Deletion of the Macalloy Corporation Superfund Site | 07-21-2020 |
| 10012-09-Region 5 | Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Attainment Plan for the Southwest Indiana Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area | 07-21-2020 |
| 10012-77-Region 7 | Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Control of Sulfur Emissions From Stationary Boilers | 07-21-2020 |
| 10012-20-ORD | Availability of the IRIS Assessment Plan for Oral Exposure to Vanadium and Compounds | 07-21-2020 |
| 10012-76-OGC | Proposed Consent Decree, Clean Air Act Citizen Suit | 07-21-2020 |

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|-------------------|--|------------|
| 10007-79-Region 4 | WARD TRANSFORMER SUPERFUND SITE, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA NOTICE of SETTLEMENT | 07-20-2020 |
| 10011-53-OAR | Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for Power Plants Electronic Reporting Revisions | 07-20-2020 |
| 10012-27-Region 4 | Ocean Dumping: Modification of an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site Offshore of Mobile, Alabama | 07-20-2020 |
| 10012-54-Region 9 | Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for the Ajo PM10 Planning Area; Arizona | 07-20-2020 |
| 10012-75-Region 1 | Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the 2015 Ozone Standard | 07-20-2020 |
| 10012-74-OA | Notification of Two Public Teleconferences of the Chartered Science Advisory Board | 07-20-2020 |
| 10012-69-Region 1 | Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the 2015 Ozone and 2012 PM2.5 Standards | 07-20-2020 |
| 10012-73-Region 3 | Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County Area Attainment Plan for the 2012 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard; Reopening of Comment Period | 07-17-2020 |
| 9999-38-Region 1 | Air Plan Approval; Massachusetts; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 2008 and 2015 Ozone Standard | 07-16-2020 |
| 10011-65-Region 2 | National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the FMC Corp. (Dublin Road Landfill) Superfund Site (Direct Final) | 07-16-2020 |
| 10011-33-OCSPP | Long Chain Alcohols; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance | 07-16-2020 |
| 10011-64-Region 2 | National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Deletion of the FMC Corp. (Dublin Road Landfill) Superfund Site (NPRM) (NOID) | 07-16-2020 |
| 10011-94-OMS | Environmental Protection Agency Acquisition Regulation (EPAAR); Open Source Software | 07-16-2020 |
| 10012-17-Region 9 | Clean Air Plans; 2008 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Requirements; Phoenix-Mesa, Arizona; Correcting Amendment | 07-16-2020 |
| 10012-35-OW | Extension of Public Comment Period: Draft Ambient Water Quality Criteria Recommendations for Lakes and Reservoirs of the Conterminous United States: Information Supporting the Development of Numeric Nutrient Criteria | 07-16-2020 |
| 10012-12-Region 4 | Air Plan Approval; Florida: Public Notice Procedures for Minor Operating Permits | 07-16-2020 |
| 10012-13-Region 4 | Air Plan Approval; Georgia: Air Quality Control, VOC Definition | 07-16-2020 |
| 10012-29-OCSPP | Pesticide Product Registration; Receipt of Applications for New Active Ingredients (June 2020) | 07-16-2020 |
| 10012-47-OECA | Access by United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Subcontractor to Information Claimed as Confidential Business Information (CBI) Submitted under Clean Air Act (CAA), Title I, | 07-16-2020 |

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|-------------------|--|------------|
| | Programs and Activities Air, and Title II Emission Standards for Moving Sources, and Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (APPS) | |
| 10012-57-OAR | part 63 National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Organic Liquids Distribution (Non-Gasoline) Residual Risk and Technology Review; Corrections | 07-16-2020 |
| 10012-46-Region 4 | Air Plan Approval; SC and TN: Minimum Reporting Requirements in SIPs | 07-16-2020 |
| 10008-04-OCSPP | Trichoderma atroviride strain SC1; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance | 07-15-2020 |
| 10012-30-OCSPP | Pesticide Product Registration; Receipt of Applications for New Uses (June 2020) | 07-15-2020 |

Office of Research and Development

Hot Topics

COVID Research: Ohio Wastewater Monitoring Project

EPA, Ohio EPA, Ohio Department of Health, and the Ohio Water Resource Center at the Ohio State University are collaborating on a COVID-19 wastewater monitoring project (see Ohio EPA [press release](#)). EPA researchers worked with the team to finalize the timeline for incorporating sampling sites into phase one of monitoring. By July 31, the Ohio network of labs will begin sampling in seven major Ohio cities and by August 31, small and medium-sized cities will be added, giving a total sample size of ~70 cities. EPA researchers will focus on sampling sites from the southwest portion of the state, including Cincinnati, Dayton, and selected surrounding cities.

COVID Research: Alternative Disinfectant Research with LA Metro

EPA staff from ORD, R9, and OLEM are contributing to LA Metro's plan to test Puro's UV disinfection lighting and are sending test coupons to incorporate. LA Metro will take samples of locations before and after UV treatment to determine any reduction in the background microorganisms present in these settings. And the small material coupons will be inoculated with the MS2 virus (as a surrogate for SARS CoV-2), placed in the rail car during the UV demonstration tests, and subsequently analyzed for virus viability after return to EPA labs. The testing is scheduled to begin the week of July 27, and the coupons from EPA will be incorporated into the demonstration the week of August 3.

COVID Research: Salivary Antibody Assay to Assess Community Exposure for SARS-CoV-2 Virus

EPA continues to recruit for the in-house saliva sample collection study, and the University of Michigan is on board to provide 50 paired serum and saliva samples. Researchers are continuing to conduct experiments to reduce signal-to-noise ratio and will test the saliva samples received this week. Information about the study and how to enroll can also be found at <https://epastudies.org/public/epastudies/SelectedStudies.aspx#COVID>.

PFAS Innovation Treatment Team (PITT) Update

This week, ORD staff began working with ERG, the contractor who will be working with PITT on emission sampling at a municipal waste combustor. ORD scientists are also coordinating with researchers from an international environmental solutions design firm on the potential for field sampling at a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) with an incinerator. In the PITT's work related to Supercritical Water Oxidation (SCWO), PITT team members ran preliminary tests at EPA's Cincinnati facility using hydrothermal liquefaction of landfill leachate and are working with a Danish SCWO firm to treat aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) samples in their laboratory-scale system. Additionally, the team is working on the "Cool Ways to Destroy PFAS" Challenge, which explores non-incineration ways to destroy PFAS in AFFF and met with members from the Environmental Council of States (ECOS), who were very supportive of the effort.

Next Gen Fertilizer Challenge Update Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizer Challenge Update

EPA is working with USDA to announce the Next Gen Fertilizer Challenge (previously called the "Enhanced Efficiency Fertilizer Challenge), a joint partnership and competition to advance agricultural sustainability in the United States. The competition seeks proposals for new and existing technologies to maintain or improve crop yields while reducing the impacts of fertilizers on the environment. Along with EPA and USDA, the competition is coordinated with The Fertilizer Institute, the International

Fertilizer Development Center, the National Corn Growers Association, and The Nature Conservancy. ORD is working closely with EPA's Office of Water and Adviser for Agriculture. The current target launch date is late July/early August.

Participation in NAAQS Process Kaizen Event

ORD staff are joining participants from OAR, OGC, and SAB in a kaizen event focusing on the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) process. This is the second in a series of sprints designed to help identify process improvements and resource needs required to meet the statutory requirements set forth in the Clean Air Act. This second sprint focuses on problem solving and process improvements. The event is July 27 – July 29.

SBIR Success on Harmful Algal Blooms

AquaRealTime, Inc. is an EPA SBIR Phase I small business out of Colorado. Their SBIR project is focused on the development of their innovative AlgaeTracker™, which uses low-cost networked sensors and machine learning for early detection of harmful algal blooms. In the first three months of their SBIR project, AquaRealTime has had commercial success with several sales of the AlgaeTracker™ to customers across the country. AquaRealTime also deployed their technology in Lagerman Reservoir in Boulder County, Colorado for further testing and have additional testing deployments planned in the coming months.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science

On Aug 5, ORD will hold the pre-meet for the Options Selection meeting with the Administrator. Options Selection will include options for finalizing peer review requirements, the Administrator's exemption and addressing pivotal science. On August 10, the Administrator will select options for the definitions of terms, peer review, and the Administrator's exemption.

EPA on ECOS PFAS Panel

EPA ORD will participate in the 2020 Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) State Environmental Protection (STEP) Meeting, Partnering on PFAS, on July 29 – July 30. This two-afternoon virtual policy summit will explore how state and federal regulators and a variety of other stakeholders are coordinating to combat PFAS contamination. On the second day, there will be a panel on Federal Perspectives on PFAS to highlight what federal agencies are doing on PFAS. ORD's Andy Gillespie will represent EPA on the panel, along with CDC, DOD, FDA and NIEHS. Other agenda topics include what several states are doing on PFAS response and regulation; detection and regulation of PFAS in environmental media; wastewater and biosolids; PFAS-containing firefighting foams disposal, cleanup and alternatives; and risk communication.

Office of Water

Hot Topics

Withdrawal of Certain Federal Water Quality Criteria Applicable to Maine

As early as next week, the Office of Water will transmit the proposed withdrawal of federal human health criteria applicable to Maine to the Office of Policy for review prior to Administrator's signature. EPA is proposing to withdraw the federal human health criteria (promulgated in 2016) because Maine adopted, and EPA approved on June 23, human health criteria that EPA determined are protective of the designated uses for Maine's waters. The withdrawal would enable Maine to implement its EPA-approved human health criteria as applicable criteria for CWA purposes.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to Report.